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From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) 02.02.2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference
05918-347WO1

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCTUS 03/40035

International filing date (day/month/year)
16.12.2003

Priority date (day/month/year)
16.12.2002

Applicant
VELCRO INDUSTRIES B.V. et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims

Docketed By Practice Systems

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Docketed By Billing Secretary
Due Date: 3-4-05
Deadline: 3-4-05
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FEB 08 2005

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference 05918-347WO1	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US 03/40035	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 16.12.2003	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 16.12.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B65D33/14		
Applicant VELCRO INDUSTRIES B.V. et al.		

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

 These annexes consist of a total of 4 sheets.

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 13.07.2004	Date of completion of this report 02.02.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Janc, G Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2553 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/US 03/40035**

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-24 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-20 filed with telefax on 22.12.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1-24 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/US 03/40035**

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US 03/40035

V: The claims are new over the prior art since the known documents do not disclose a bag of the kind defined comprising a (single) strap of a length such as to allow, when the bag is wrapped around an object, the fastener elements provided on one side of the strap to engage exposed fibres of the bag.

There is no suggestion in the available documents to such a design which allows to improve the pressure between the bag body and the object.

Remark: The description and drawings appear to show that the "exposed fibers" are on the strap, not on the bag body, and it appears that only such a design would allow to put the desired pressure; however claim 1 relates to fibers "on" the bag, which would imply the possibility of having the fibers only on the bag body, not the strap. The claim thus is unclear.

JC09 Rec CT/PTO 16 JUN 2005

What is claimed is:

1. A bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) comprising
a bag body (1006,1310,119,119",618,724,756,876) defining therein a
compartment (384) accessible through an opening (379,616,722) at one end of the bag
body (1006,1310,119,119",618,724,756,876); and
secured to the bag body (1006,1310,119,119",618,724,756,876) along one
edge thereof and extending therefrom to a free distal end (1003), a flexible strap
(1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312) of width sufficient to span at least a
majority of the compartment (384), the strap carrying an array of fastener elements
(102) on an opposite side thereof (see, for example, Fig. 1), each fastener element
(102) having a stem extending integrally from a band of resin extending across the
strap (1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312);
the strap (1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312) being of sufficient
length to wrap about an object, with the strap
(1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312) overlapping the bag body
(1006,1310,119,119",618,724,756,876) to engage exposed fibers of the bag
(1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) with the fastener elements (102), to
secure the bag to the object (see, for example, Fig. 3).
2. The bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) of claim 1
wherein the band of resin encapsulates surface features of the strap
(1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312) to form an inseparable laminate.
3. The bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) of claim 1
wherein the band of resin is an integral region of the strap
(1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312), the strap being a unitary sheet of the
resin and extending beyond the array of fastener elements.
4. The bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) of any of
the above claims wherein the strap (1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312)

extends beyond the edge of the bag body (1006,1310,119,119",618,724,756,876) a distance greater than about twice a width of the bag body (1006,1310,119,119",618,724,756,876) measured from the same edge in opposite direction.

5

5. The bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) of any of the above claims wherein the strap (1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312) consists essentially of a sheet of loop material with the band of resin extending thereacross.

10

6. The bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) of any of the above claims wherein the bag body (1006,1310,119,119",618,724,756,876) is secured to the strap (1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312) along multiple edges of the bag body.

15

7. The bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) of any of the above claims wherein the strap (1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312) is an integral extension of one side of the bag body (1006,1310,119,119",618,724,756,876).

20

8. The bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) of any of the above claims wherein the bag body (1006,1310,119,119",618,724,756,876) includes a releasable closure extending along the opening (379,616,722).

25

9. The bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) of claim 8 wherein the closure comprises a rib-and-groove closure (see, for example, Fig. 1).

30

10. The bag of claim 8 wherein the closure comprises a touch fastener closure (see, for example, Fig. 46).

11. The bag (1100,601,708,742,1200,1300) of any of the above claims wherein the opening (379,616,722) faces the strap (1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312).

5 12. The bag (1000,100,101,877) of any of claims 1 to 10 wherein the opening (379,616,722) extends along one side edge of the strap (1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312).

10 13. The bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) of any of the above claims wherein the strap (1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312) is resiliently stretchable in a longitudinal sense.

15 14. The bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) of any of the above claims wherein the fastener elements (102) are disposed in a discrete band (1010) adjacent the free end (1003) of the strap (1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312). (See, for example, Fig. 1.)

20 15. The bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) of claim 14 wherein the discrete band (1010) is continuous and extends across the width of the strap (1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312).

25 16. The bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) of claim 14 wherein the strap (1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312) includes a graspable, non-fastening region (D; see Fig. 29) at its free end (1003), beyond the band (1010) of fastener elements (102).

30 17. The bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) of any of the above claims wherein the compartment (384) is defined fully within the width of the strap (1009,1005,109,125,609,709,706,889,1312), such that the strap envelops the compartment (384) when overlapped across the bag body (1006,1310,119,119",618,724,756,876).

18. A method of releasably securing one or more relatively small components to a relatively larger object, the method comprising placing the components in the compartment (384) of a wrap-bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) according to claim 1; and wrapping the wrap-bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) about the object in overlapping manner (see, for example, Fig. 3), releasably securing the fastener elements (102) of the wrap-bag (1000,1100,100,101,601,708,742,877,1200,1300) to the fibers of the wrap-bag, to hold the wrap-bag to the object.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the relatively large object is a chassis (1220), and the components (1222) are to be later assembled to the chassis (1220).

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the relatively large object is to be detonated, and the components comprise one or more explosive charges.

21. ~~A bag comprising a bag body defining therein a compartment accessible through an opening at one end of the bag body; and secured to the bag body along one edge thereof and extending therefrom to a free distal end, a flexible strap of width sufficient to span at least a majority of the compartment, the strap carrying an array of fastener elements on an opposite side thereof, each fastener element having a stem extending integrally from a band of resin extending across the strap; the strap being of sufficient length to wrap about an object, with the strap overlapping the bag body to engage exposed fibers of the bag with the fastener elements, to secure the bag to the object.~~

22. ~~The bag of claim 21 wherein the band of resin encapsulates surface features of the strap to form an inseparable laminate.~~